Pending gauge-conversion projects in Orissa

2395. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether he would consider the long pending broad gauge lines conversions projects of Badmpahar to Keonjhar and Bangriposi to Gorumahisani which is demanded by tribal people of the Mayurbhanj;

(b) if so, whether Government would give any priority to the some pending projects for upliftment of the tribal people;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any constructive work towards the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, how much time Government would require for above said pending projects to complete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The surveys for construction of a new broad gauge railway line from Badampahar to Keonjhar and for the extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi line (now under conversion) up to Gorumahisani are in progress. Further consideration of these projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.

(b) to (e) A number of railway projects have been taken up in the underdeveloped areas of Orissa on socio-economic considerations and are being progressed as per the availability of resources. However, the Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support to expedite the completion of these projects.

Facility of IST class in trains

2396. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kangra and Kullu valleys of Himachal Pradesh are famous for religious, adventures and other tourist activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no facility of Ist class or 2nd Chair

car has been provided by the Railways in the train which leaves from Pathankot to Kangra Valley and Joginderanagar; and

(c) if so, by when Government would provide these facilities in these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. One First Class coach has been provided in 1 PBJ/4 PBJ Pathankot-Joginder Nagar Passenger train. There is no proposal to run First Class coaches on other narrow guage trains in the section. All the trains running on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section have been provided 2nd class sitting accommodation but the seating arrangement is not chair car type and there is no proposal for provision of the same in the trains running on the section.

Additional bogie in Bilaspur-Amritsar train

†2397. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to attach a bogie with the trains running between Bilaspur to Amritsar from Bilaspur itself for making journey to Haridwar keeping in view the demand of the people;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, 8477/8478 Puri-Haridwar Express is directly available for Bilaspur-Haridwar passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational constraints.

Passenger amenities

2398. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what the strategy available against the present constraints of funds for planned investment; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.